

# THE Library Journal

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS OF AMERICA AND OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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VOL. 5. No. 5.

MAY, 1880.

## Contents:

	Page.		Page.
GERMAN LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS: Translated by <i>G: F: Arnold.</i> . . . . .	131	NOTES FROM ROCHESTER— <i>Otis H. Robinson.</i> . . . .	149
THOUGHTS ON TITLE-TAKING— <i>B: R. Wheatley.</i> . . . .	133	ZOOLOGICAL SUBJECTS CLASSIFIED BY DEWEY SYSTEM— <i>B: Pickman Mann.</i> . . . .	143
EDITORIAL NOTES . . . . .	139	INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY IN AUSTRIA— <i>C: A. Cutter.</i> . . . .	145
Popular Suffrage and Library Administration— The Census and the Libraries—The "College Libraries" Pamphlet—A Specimen Letter.		THE OLDEST LIBRARY IN THE NORTH-WEST . . . . .	145
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION . . . . .	140	TRANSFERABLE BOOK-COVERS . . . . .	146
Conference of 1880—Library Photographs.		CLIPPINGS FROM PERIODICALS— <i>Melvil Dui.</i> . . . .	146
UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION . . . . .	140	BINDING PERIODICAL SCRAPES— <i>Q. P.</i> . . . .	147
May Monthly Meeting.		BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	148
COMMUNICATIONS . . . . .	140	PSEUDONYMS AND ANONYMS . . . . .	153
Class Adaptation in the Selection of Books: The Fiction Question—A Specimen Letter.		NOTES AND QUERIES . . . . .	153
		GENERAL NOTES . . . . .	154

NEW YORK: OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 13 and 15 Park Row.

LONDON: TRÜBNER & Co., 57 and 59 Ludgate Hill.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION, \$5.00—£3.

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*From Harper's Monthly.*

The publication last year of the memoirs of the Baroness Bunsen, and the interest they excited for her friend and relative, Mrs. Delany, have suggested the preparation of an American edition of Lady Llanover's "Autobiography and Correspondence of Mrs. Delany." Lady Llanover's edition, which is now out of print, was large, costly, and swelled to unnecessarily large proportions by the introduction of a number of letters of insignificant interest, having little if any bearing upon the life or character of Mrs. Delany. The American editor has with judicious reserve eliminated the most unimportant of these, omitting none, however, that could add material value or interest to the narrative. It is difficult to speak of these fascinating volumes as they deserve and yet avoid the use of terms that are liable to the suspicion of exaggeration. The character of Mrs. Delany was so perfect in its symmetrical beauty, her accomplishments were so varied and great, her elegance was so consummate, and her mental, moral and social equipoise so remarkable, that it is almost as difficult for us, while fresh from her charming letters, as it was for her contemporaries, while fresh from the charm of her presence, to speak of her without a resort to superlatives. Mrs. Delany's greatest charm, however, as her American editor well discriminates, resided not in her supremacy in the world of rank and fashion and intellect, but in her womanly qualities. "Modest, high-minded, discriminating and just,—loyal alike to principle and to affection, admirable as wife, daughter, sister, friend,—her merits as a woman outshone her luster as *grande dame*, and commend her to the love and admiration of all who are capable of reverencing excellence in womanhood." Mrs. Delany's life was a long and eventful one, extending from 1700 to 1788. During all this period she lived in the social circle that revolved in and around the court, and was brought into close and familiar intercourse with members of the royal family, as well as with all others who were distinguished for rank, or virtue, or abilities. Her letters are the expression of the mind of a true gentlewoman; and besides affording pleasing glimpses of the interior life and surroundings of her own family, and of the families of her friends and relatives, are specially valuable for their fresh and vivid pictures of social life and manners among the privileged classes of England during the reigns of Anne and the first three Georges, and for the round of introductions they give us to those who were then famous in the world of art, fashion, politics and literature.

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# THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

## GERMAN LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.\*

TRANSLATED BY G. F. ARNOLD, HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY.

WHEN I get any library publications from America, I always ask myself what our large and ancient libraries, each supplied with half a dozen or more learned officials, have to show in comparison. Most of them have, indeed, had catalogues of their manuscripts printed. Göttingen and Berlin at one time issued annual lists of accessions; and Tübingen is so fortunate as to have a main-subject catalogue, which has been in course of publication for more than twenty years. But the two first have given up publication as superfluous and wasting time and money, and Tübingen would not have its printed catalogue if it were not forced to by the will of one of its professors. It is, indeed, superfluous to print in a list of accessions the titles of any but recent publications, especially for libraries which are so rich in the older works as our German ones. In this country, those who are interested in the older literature do not expect to find anything to their purpose in accessions catalogues. They are specialists, and use nothing but special bibliographies. With the mass of readers, however, of school, academy or university education, the case is different. They seek information chiefly on matters of current interest, and the only way to help them is by such bulletins and reports as the American libraries

issue. The very title-pages of these reports show that your idea of the office of a library is different from the traditional German conception. They announce plainly who the officers are, while here one has to hunt up a government register or a bulky directory to find out with whom one has to deal.

In regard to the arrangement of the books the German public knows next to nothing, and only a very few persons have any idea what sort of special catalogues there are. For, in the first place, many of our libraries have no systematic arrangement whatever, nor any shelf-catalogues—nothing, in fact, but a main author catalogue and a few special lists; while other lists, according to a vague tradition, have been in preparation since the days of Noah. In the second place, the officials intend that the public shall have as little use of the catalogues as possible; the library is meant to be a book with seven seals to all but the clique of historical and philological students.

Access to our great libraries would undoubtedly be highly prized by educated people if guides and catalogues were placed at their disposal, but, through lack either of the ability or the disposition to prepare them, these are generally not to be had. The government library at Munich, for

\* The above article was sent as a private letter from a prominent German librarian, who, it will be seen, is made of quite different stuff from his neighbors. It offers hints to many others than German librarians.—Eds. L. J.

example, has a subject-index, which was kept up until about 1830. At that time it was discontinued, and, in 1879, a Bavarian school director, who was formerly connected with the library, ventured to assert publicly that it was found impossible to continue it. Very likely; for if, in 1879, library officials work only five hours a day, in 1850 they probably did not spend more than three hours in the library, and in three hours it might very naturally have been difficult to carry on such a work. Moreover, not content that in some of our largest libraries the daily working hours are limited to three or four, some persons are even now heard to assert that it would be very desirable to admit the public during two hours only, in order that the officials might have an hour or two to themselves. It is the old story: they are not there for the good of the public, but the public is so kind as to supply them, by its taxes and contributions, with their daily bread.

If you would like to know how German librarians live, I will give you a description. They enter the building when the clock strikes the hour for opening, or later still; some go to their duties at once; others, who have slept too late to read the morning paper at home, take it up and read it through before they begin their work. If the library requires books to be ordered the day before they are taken out, the public can be served by inferior assistants; if not, its demands cause frequent and welcome interruptions to the otherwise "monotonous" work of the librarian. The moment the prescribed hours are over he closes the library, dines at one or two o'clock in the good old German fashion, takes an after-dinner nap, or goes to walk—his cup of coffee, too, he must have, of course; or else he applies himself to some private task for pleasure or for pay. Evening comes, and he must be off to read the papers and to chat in the beer room, or he

goes to a club or the theater, or somewhere else.

There are, of course, exceptions; there are librarians who work diligently at home, but these are generally in need of money to support their families, and as bibliographical work is unremunerative, while so-called "learned" works bring in from eight to fifteen dollars a signature, no bibliographical work is done. Library science does not rank as a learned study. Do not think that the proverb, "It's an ill bird that fouls its own nest" applies to me: it ought not to apply to one who has worked as hard in his profession as I have; but I am indignant at the great mass of librarians. Has not a man a right to be indignant who has to deal with colleagues who maintain that a printed catalogue is of no use to anybody? How is a country school-master, who wants information on some point of history, or any other subject, to accomplish his purpose if he cannot buy a printed catalogue? Must he make a journey of half a day or so to the library, in order to miss seeing the manuscript catalogues, because the library is open only a few hours? "Even the gods contend in vain against stupidity." Still, though I am no god, I shall fight, secretly or openly, just as may happen.

But who is to blame for such views and such a state of things in our libraries? Solely the government, which, with blissful confidence, intrusts to a single man the interests of the public and the conduct of affairs, only to find itself, in many cases, shamefully deceived. Ministerial regulations are not heeded, the requests of other officials are set aside with inconsequential objections, and the public must be thankful to take what it can get, because there is no government commission to inspect the library, and make suggestions to the director.

For such shabby work as the defective cataloguing such as we have here, a Ger-

man librarian is rewarded with honors and titles; and people who are not ashamed to have such catalogues prepared or to make them themselves, look superciliously on English and American librarians, sneer at

American libraries as "circulating libraries," because they contain popular as well as learned works, and if they venture to take up American library publications at all, do so with a contemptuous shrug.

### THOUGHTS ON TITLE-TAKING, TRITE, TRIVIAL, OR TENTATIVE.—I.\*

BY BENJAMIN R. WHEATLEY, LIBRARIAN OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOC., LONDON.

THE taking of a title appears a very simple work, and some have spoken of it as a mere copying of words within the capacity of every one. There can be no objection to the copying of an entire title-page for a special bibliography, but the experience of all who have had to do much cataloguing must lead them to avoid the servile repetition of the wording of a title. There is much introduced for the sake of appearance or for advertisement, so much that we feel can be of no use to the enquirer, that it seems like being imposed upon to be tied to the necessity of following literally so much useless verbiage; and it becomes a question whether, even in bibliographical works on rare books, it may not be carried to excess, and whether the complete copying of a title-page is not really an unnecessary and fanciful style of work, for which there is no adequate motive. Is not a catalogue of this nature described in the old clever and amusing anagram of the word, "Got as a clue"? and may not the catalogue title, in some, though of course in a very different degree, bear the same relation to its title-page as an index or title-page does to the book? and may it not therefore bear to that title-page some little proportion of the indicial character? Any of the usual plans of dots, lines, etc., to represent elisions, omissions, etc., can be adopted, but a book must not

be considered as badly or improperly catalogued because such and such words have been omitted. The cultivation of our own judgment in making such omissions will be a more useful object for the employment of our critical faculties. A long list of titles illustrating this point might be made.

I have made a copy of one of them as an illustration:—"Speculum Polytechnum Mathematicum novum, | tribus visionibus illustre | quarum extat | Una Funda- | mentalis Aliquot | Numerorum Danielis et Apo- | calypseos naturæ et proprie- | tatis Consignatio | Altera, usus Hactenus | incognitus Instrumenti Da- | nielis Spec- | cellii, altitudinum, profun- | ditatum, longi- | tudinum, latitudinumque dimen- | siones, nec non Planimetricas delineationes | accommodatio | Postrema brevis ac luculenta se- | xies Acuminati Proportionum Cir- | cini quibus fructuose iste adhibeatur | enar- | ratio | In omnium Mathesin Adamantium | Emolumentum | prius Germanicè ædi- | tum | Authore | Joanne Faulhabero Arith- | metico | et Logista Ulmensi ingeniosissimo | Posterius vero ne tanto aliæ na- | tiones defraudentur bono, Latinè conversum | per | Joannem Rummelinum, Ph. et Med. | Doctorem | Impressum Ulmæ, typis Jo- | annis | Mederi | MDCXII." The follow- | ing entry of the title is such as perhaps would answer all the necessary require- | ments of an ordinary catalogue:—"Faul-

\* Read at the April meeting of the L. A. U. K.



haber (Johannes). *Speculum Polytechnum Mathematicum novum tribus visionibus, una: Numerorum Danielis et Apocalypseos naturæ consignatio; altera: usus Instrumenti Danielis Specceii, ad altitudinum etc. dimensiones accommodatio; postrema: sexies Acuminati Proportionum Circini enarratio; prius Germanicè Latinè conversum per Joannem Remmelinum. 4to. Ulmæ, 1612.*" The process usually taking place in a library when a book is required does not necessitate the full display of the wording of a title-page; it is the book itself which is wanted, and the shortened form serves this purpose, while the reading of an elaborate title-page can be obtained from the book itself when found.

In choosing our omissions, we ought to make a special point of leaving out all that is a mere expansion of words previously used, while we must enter with care all such phrases as show in what the work is otherwise special or peculiar. There are a certain set of phrases which are frequently met with in old books, such as "Whereunto is added a new and very complete treatise on," "To which is annexed a very particular and instructive account of," "The whole illustrated with elegant sculptures after the life," "With a treatise very profitable and necessary for every man, newly and carefully corrected and amended, and also somewhat enlarged in certain places, on." Most of such pleonastic phrases might be replaced by the preposition "with," in brackets if preferred. One is sometimes inclined to omit short first words, or such as are redundant or unnecessary to the sense, and also Latin words or phrases at the head of titles of English works, which are simply translations of the English words following them; but I have sometimes had reason to doubt the propriety of the omission, from finding that these words have become in the course of time a portion of the

familiar quotation of the book, and, therefore, if they are not inserted, doubts may arise as to identity of edition. This refers to Latin sentences as well as to single words, among the latter of which may be mentioned such works as Hodges' "Loimologia, or Account of the Plague"; Deane's "Spadacrene Anglica"; Crooke's "Microcosmographia," etc.

Among the many causes of error in transcription of titles, one sometimes occurs in which the author's name is placed in a position and type totally subsidiary to that of the translator, in order apparently to flatter the vanity of the latter by throwing the name of the author into the greatest possible shade obtainable by small type, while the translator's name appears in letters which, compared with the author's, are like those of the starring actor in theatrical placards. On the bindings of these books and in rapidly compiled catalogues, the translator's name is invariably adopted as that of the author. I may mention an example: "G. L. Bayle's Researches on Pulmonary Phthisis, translated by William Barrow. Liverpool, 1815." At first sight the work is invariably supposed to be Barrow's, the name of Bayle being in small old English type, intentionally so printed. In another work the same object is differently achieved. The book is a translation of Davaine's work on Human Entozoa. In the title Davaine's name does not occur, but the pseudo-author acknowledges a partial indebtedness to him in the preface. The work is really an abridged translation of Davaine's treatise, by Abbots Smith, though ostensibly a work by the latter.

I once met with another simple but singular cause of error in title-taking. It was a small 4to volume in Latin, which at first sight I catalogued as by Herman Conringius. The work was "Twelve Books on the Chief Controversies in the Art of Surgery," an "opera posthuma, nunc primum

edita." I was puzzled, however, on turning over the title, to find the dedication signed by the posthumous author, and, further, that in the running heading it was stated to be the work of Thomas Fienus. Turning back to the title to endeavor to decipher the mystery, I soon found that the title-page, which was an engraved one, had a square opening in the center for the reception of the printed title, but not made sufficiently large for the purpose, and the name of Thomas Fienus had been printed into a dark portion of the engraving, and was thus almost entirely obscured to casual observation. While referring to engraved title-pages, I would add that where a work has two title-pages, one printed and the other engraved, the former should always be taken in preference to the pictured form, as the latter frequently has errors in spelling, either of the author's name or of other important words. Indeed, the engravers appear always to have worked independently of the corrector of the press, and to have had a peculiar idiosyncrasy for variety in their spellings.

Difficulties sometimes occur in the use of the article in French names, leading, when an author has also written in Latin with a Latinized name, to the separation of his works, as: Du Moulin and Molinæus, Descartes and Cartesius, Le Roy and Regius, Le Clerc and Clericus, Joan. de Montereio and Regiomontanus, and many others. The rule (to be again mentioned subsequently) as to the first of two French names in apposition being the one to be adopted in alphabetical arrangement, and also applicable to the case where the second name is joined to the first by the preposition "de," has to be sometimes broken when familiar or professional parlance has rendered the second name so common and prevailing as to be the only possible one for use. I need not now refer to the hackneyed case of Voltaire, but I may add a few other illustrations of

the point, in those of R. J. Croissant de *Garengot*, Guill. Mauquest de *La Motte*, H. M. Ducrotay de *Blainville*, etc. The above use of names is easily explicable by the universal instinct to shorten all names brought into constant use, the name which rests last upon the ear soon becoming that adopted for usual parlance by the tongue.

The letter O in names of authors is sometimes a trouble from its usual connexion with the ablative case, and we have to be careful when we come upon such names in titles as "a Philippo Montalto," "authore Julio Millo," etc., that we do not turn the surnames into *us*, but give them their right nominatives in *o*, as Philippus Montalto and Julius Millo, which will be found by reference to dedication or preface to be the right forms of their names.

There is a famous little work by Nicolas Stenson on the Muscles and Glands, in which the genitive case of the name becomes the cause of trouble. On the title the wording is "Nicolai Stenonis de Musculis et Glandulis Observationum specimen," and you naturally write on your title-slip, "Steno (Nicolaus)," as it is generally catalogued; but on turning to the preface you find it is signed Nicolaus Stenonis. I met it once in the form of Nicolaus Stenonis, fil., which probably explains the matter, and is connected with the fact that in the vernacular the name is Nicolas Stenson.

When any antique or doubtful form of spelling occurs in a modern work, it is as well in copying it *literatim* to add the word [*sic*] in brackets, as you will find the compositor will otherwise not unfrequently correct your supposed error into the most recent and customary form. When the names of two authors occur as partners in a work, we should not, I think, place the Christian name of the second in parenthesis after the surname, as is often done. The object of the parenthesis being merely to show that the Christian name is re-

moved to the second place for the alphabetical arrangement of the surname, but is to be read first, there can be no reason for repeating the operation with the second name. Honorary titles should not, on the same principle, be included in the parenthesis, as Brown (John, D. D.), as it gives the reading John D. D. Brown. It seems preferable always to write Brown (John), D. D.

With regard to Christian names, many authors invariably sign with initials, and, as it is important for the identification of authors, the Christian name must be sought for in a Biographical Dictionary; but where an author has three or four Christian names, and they are given in full in his work, it will generally suffice to give the first in full, and the rest in initials. I refer to such names as Dietrich Wilhelm Heinrich Busch. In objection to the rule for putting works under the last initial letter of a concealed name, I may mention one instance out of many. In Errard's work on Geometry, published in 1620, we have "reveue par D. H. P. E. M.," which are the initials of "D. Henriom, Professeur ès Mathematiques." Other letters which occur frequently before names create doubts as to their standing for Christian names or not, such as M., F., P., R., D., etc., which often mean only Monsieur, Frater, Pater, Reverendus, or Dominus. You cannot always be guided by the importance given to names by old printers in their use of small or large type; appearance, totally irrespective of meaning or real importance, seeming to be the controlling guide of the arrangement; take as an instance a work by Ferrarius: IOH. BAPTISTÆ | Ferrarii Senensis | FLORA.||

We want to keep up a casual acquaintance with the Latinized names of towns, for frequently of three names it is excessively difficult to say whether they consist of two Christian names and a surname, or

of a Christian name, a surname, and a patronymic, or agnomen from place of birth or residence. Catalogues often contain errors on this point. A careful reference to the characters of the type in which the name is given at the commencement or end of the preface will sometimes relieve our doubts on the subject. Another class of difficult names is when the surname has the appearance of a Christian name, as P. F. Thomas Longueville, which is often erroneously catalogued under Longueville.

It is a great error to invent new works by entering separately portions of title-pages; such tractates should be entered only as part of the general title in which they are found, with cross-references from the several names of the authors.

Lines at the commencement of titles should be confined to replacing the repetition of the same author's name. When the same name occurs with different Christian names it should be repeated, as there is a risk, if the lines are continued, of the whole appearing to the eye as the works of the first author named. The repetitions of the surname to every work of an author is equally objectionable, as it destroys the possibility of seeing at a glance the extent of each author's works.

With regard to *place of publication* in our titles, no *ibids* should be allowed to works published at the same place except when they are the works of the same author. *Ibids* continued down a page including works of different authors may lead at a future time, when some cutting-up and re-sorting of the catalogue takes place, to an infinity of error as to place of publication.

On the subject of dates, I may mention some varieties which prove difficulties to cataloguers. There is a master-key, which will unlock the mystery of the greater number of them, and this is the simple and common one that all lesser numbers placed before larger ones, or inserted between parts of them, are to be deducted from the



larger. In illustration I may mention that I have seen the dates 1609 in the form of MDCVIV., 1599 as MDIC., viz., one less than 1600; and 1698 as MHDCC., or two from 1700. In an old work, "Mare Liberum," date 1609, there is an uncommon use of i in place of a c, as CIO.IOL.IX.; 1499 appears as MCDXCIX. (the 100 being subtracted from the 500), and the same date may be seen as MID. (1 from 1500); 1585 appears as CIOIOXXCV., the twenty being deducted from the 1600, and 1599 as MDIC. On a different plan from the above I have seen M.VIC.XXI. for 1621. I need hardly add how frequently a tall I at the end of names and dates stands for two ii, as MDLI. for 1552, and ROSTOCHI for Rostochii.

From the subjects of place and date I must return to notice two other difficulties in regard to Christian names. They are, first, their entire omission in many French works, and, secondly, their being confounded with surnames in English. There is a constant trouble arising from this omission of Christian names in French works—it is as if the author was considered to be too well known to require such distinctive initials, and, as in many instances this omission can be supplied by a reference to a Biographical Dictionary, their non-use seems to be caused by a national idiosyncrasy. In a Medical Directory of the day, out of about 1,800 names of Doctors of Medicine in Paris, only 300 have had their initials prefixed, and this only where there was a necessity for distinguishing between two or more of the same name; and in the French Dictionaries of Medicine still in progress, and in their earlier editions, in the enumeration of contributors a large number have no initial Christian name prefixed. This peculiarity soon strikes the librarian as more particularly occurring in works published since the commencement of the present century, and as among the authors

there are a large number who must have been born during the wild and stormy days of the first French Revolutionary period, when the Church was for a time dethroned and its priests scattered abroad, one feels inclined to ask whether a short time did not then occur when no Christian names were given at baptism, and no rationalistic prænomens supplied their place; infants having only soubriquets, nicknames, or terms of affection given them, which could never assume the position of a genuine name given at a public solemnity; and would be likely to be dropped by the one would-be celebrity of his family, when he left his provincial home to enter the Parisian world, in which he was to be known as the sole representative of his family name. Years ago, while thinking over this question, I came across a passage in Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables," Chap. XXVII., which appeared to favor the supposition; it runs thus: "She called herself Fantine, and why Fantine? She was never known by any other name. At the period of her birth the Directory was still in existence. She had no family name as she had no family, and no Christian name as the Church was abolished." May we not consider this a partial cause of the deficiency of Christian names, and one which has had a collateral influence in causing the withholding of the use of them even in cases where the Biographical Dictionary testifies to their existence?

On the second subject, of double names, there is a distinct opposition in the rules to be followed in English and French title-taking. In French the *first* of two surnames in apposition without the intervening preposition *de*, whether hyphenated or not, is almost invariably the name to be adopted for alphabetical arrangement, as Boileau-Despréaux, Choiseul Gouffier, Duplessis Mornay, Pigault Lebrun, Rapin Thoyras, Barthélemy St. Hilaire, Geoffroy St. Hilaire, etc.; and a strong collateral proof of

this rule is that the French, who, more than any other race, are accustomed to consider their own systems applicable to all other countries as well, in the Indexes to the "Comptes Rendus," and "Mémoires" of their Academy, and in other works, invariably take for the alphabet the first of two English names, such as Marshall Hall, Rymer Jones, Burdon Sanderson, etc., which will be found respectively placed under Marshall, Rymer, and Burdon.

In regard to English double names, the first is generally what I must take the liberty of calling for distinction a "sur-Christian name," and thus the second of two apparent surnames is the one to be used for arrangement of the alphabet, and this rule forms one of those which have been lately adopted, for the sake of obtaining uniformity in the indexes of books, by the Index Society, and is one of the rules recommended by the committee of our Association.

It is a singular thing, that contemporaneously with this apparent settlement of the question, there has been a growing inclination to hyphen these two English names, and so to compel the use of the first as the alphabet one.

I do not wish to discuss instances where other names have been assumed on coming into property left with that proviso; the laws of the land will settle that question; but I will describe in detail an imaginary case illustrating the circumstances to which I allude:

A child has two Christian names given at its baptism, the second of which is the surname of a friend of the family. Take any name you please as that of our family, say "White," the child becoming William Cullen White. In the course of years he becomes a well-known poet, physician, statesman, or what not; he becomes known

as Cullen White, gives this additional Christian name in common to all his children, and they carry it on to another generation, the family becoming generally known and spoken of as the Cullen Whites, and they wish to be so known. But the ancestor poet or statesman was known as a White, and our ancestral librarian catalogued his works under White, and we have continued the process. Why cannot his family be known as the Cullen Whites, as Kirke White and Blanco White are known under White, without our having to arrange their name under Cullen?

Names of this double character among the Smiths, Browns, Joneses, etc., are positively legion, and have hitherto been allowed to follow the English rule given above, in peace; but if this hyphening is to be encouraged, and these two names are hereafter required to be alphabetized under the first or second of them at the caprice of the possessor, "confusion worse confounded" will arise in our catalogues; for the matter is fast growing, and printers' compositors are beginning of their own accord to follow in the track marked out, and in their uncertainty are hyphening double names without the slightest authority for so doing.

The object is patent: the desire to add a sounding prænomen to the simplicity of the original surname; but this has hitherto been considered as achieved without this hyphening, and I think, if the alteration be allowed to exist in Court Guides, Directories, and Professional lists, we should if possible make a stand, and not let it invade the more systematic entries of our catalogues, but keep to the rule of placing them, as has been customary in English, under the second name, with cross-references in such peculiar cases as seem to require them.

## THE LIBRARY JOURNAL.

MAY, 1880.

*Communications for the JOURNAL, exchanges, and editors' copies, should be addressed EDITORS LIBRARY JOURNAL, 13 & 15 Park Row (P. O. Box 4295), New York, except material for special departments, which should be forwarded direct to departmental editors.*

*Library catalogues, reports, regulations, sample blanks, and other library appliances, should be sent to MELVIL DUI, Sec. A. L. A., General Office American Library Association, 32 Hawley Street (P. O. Box 260), Boston. European matter may be sent to the care of H. R. TEDDER, Sec. L. A. U. K., Athenaeum Club, Pall Mall, S. W., London.*

*Remittances and orders for subscriptions and advertisements should be addressed to THE LIBRARY JOURNAL, 13 & 15 Park Row (P. O. Box 4295), New York. Remittances should be made by draft on New York, P. O. order, or registered letter.*

*The Editors are not responsible for the views expressed in contributed articles or communications, nor for the style of spelling, capitalization, etc., in articles whose authors request adherence to their own styles.*

*Subscribers are entitled to advertise books wanted, or duplicates for sale and exchange, at the nominal rate of 10 cents per line (regular rate, 25 cents); also to advertise for situations or assistance to the extent of five lines free of charge.*

THE trouble at St. Louis has been settled by popular vote, in which female suffrage was apotheosized, casting the greater part of the vote. Mr. Crunden was thoroughly vindicated, but there is still an unpleasant memory of the disturbance. Meanwhile it has been proposed, in the New York Mercantile Library, to go back to the system formerly in vogue there, but discarded because, in plain terms, it became a disgrace to the library and to the city. This is a statement which may not be welcome, but every New Yorker of those days knows it to be true. Whether or not votes were bought and "free rum" circulated, the election was made a horse-play sort of contest, with rival tickets running more for the sake of fighting each other than because of any real division of opinion on library policy. These are evils of popular government in its application to libraries that make one feel a little queerly. On the other hand, close corporations are not altogether admirable; they soon fossilize. The solution is perhaps not so much in the constituency which elects, be it small or large, as in a change in the American habit of mind at all sorts of elections. Even in St. Louis, it was the "Crunden ticket" and the "Soldan ticket," though it was a board of directors that was to be chosen. It will be a long struggle before, in a library election, the only or the chief consideration will be: Is this man

informed and fit to govern the library? But this seems to us to be the only standard toward which to work.

SPECIAL arrangements are in progress to make the census reports full and accurate in the matter of libraries, which are in this generation one of the best registers of popular progress. It has been suggested that the scheme of report proposed by the Co-operation Committee, abridged as to some details and extended in such directions as real property, endowment, etc., might furnish the best basis for this purpose, and we are authorized to say that suggestions as to its modification, or as to a better plan, will be gratefully received through the New York office of the LIBRARY JOURNAL.

THE Bureau of Education has done another service to library progress in issuing the pamphlet on "College Libraries as Aids to Instruction," which forms its "Circular No. 1" for 1880. Prof. Winsor's general treatment of "The College Library" is especially valuable for its descriptive summary of what may be called the literature of book information, the encyclopedias, works of reference, bibliographies and library catalogues which are keys to other books. Prof. O. H. Robinson's detailed account of the administration and use of the Rochester University Library draws its illustrations from one of the best managed college libraries, of moderate size, in the country, and it is not only to college librarians that this pamphlet will be happily useful.

THE JOURNAL has a valued correspondent who keeps us informed of her doings in a breezy way that is most acceptable and stirs up the papers in our sanctum. We print the latest (suppressing names) to make clearer the letter that came with it. The latter will give the address to those who may wish to contribute some special word of advice, but we print it chiefly to point the moral that after all our efforts a library of 40,000 volumes seems to have got on thus far without co-operative help, and, with commendable (if wasteful) enterprise, is trying to do for itself alone, at great trouble and expense, what it is the especial business of the Association and the JOURNAL to do so much better and cheaper. Will not each reader of the JOURNAL make it a matter of conscience that no such library be found in his State? Improve every opportunity in conversation and correspondence to impress the necessity of co-operative work and mutual discussion, such as the JOURNAL affords, on all library people. Conceive for a moment the thousands of pages of ms. necessary to answer these requests in full. What point of library economy is not covered by them?

## AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

## CONFERENCE OF 1880.

REPEATED inquiries are made as to the time and place of the next meeting of the A. L. A. It was decided to hold it in Washington, and to leave the time to the Washington librarians, specially Mr. Spofford, with a view to do the most good possible to the National Library by having the meeting when Congress would be most interested in it.

Mr. Spofford writes: "I have been much harassed with many affairs,—specially the pushing through of some measure about the Library Building,—and so have neglected the important question of the Association meeting at Washington. I still wish and hope for it here, and soon. I am not going abroad this year, whatever the papers may say. Will you consult and fix the time to suit the greatest convenience of the greatest number, and I will report upon accommodations?"

As soon as this question is decided, announcement will be made in the JOURNAL. The members are making preparations to get work in shape to leave for another of the pleasant and profitable conferences which are looked forward to each year with increasing pleasure.

## LIBRARY PHOTOGRAPHS.

SEVERAL thoughtful librarians have sent to the general offices in Boston views, mostly and preferably stereoscopic, of their libraries. Such a collection, with the photographs of the librarians which we are collecting, proves very interesting to our many callers. No false modesty should prevent any librarian or member from sending us his photograph, and we repeat our request, hoping to make our collection reasonably large if not finally complete. In sending the photographs, address Melvil Dui, Secretary, P. O. box 260, Boston.

## UNITED KINGDOM ASSOCIATION.

## MAY MONTHLY MEETING.

THE seventh monthly meeting of the third year of the Association was held at the London Institution on Friday, May 7, 1880, at 8 P. M., Mr. W. H. Overall in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the chairman called on Mr. Henry Wilson, of the British Museum, to read his paper: "Remarks on Fac-simile Reproduction."

Mr. Wilson gave an interesting and valuable summary of the several photographic processes in

use, concluding with the following practical suggestions: "There is another important matter which should not be omitted, namely, the regulations under which photography of rare, often fragile and easily injured, objects should be allowed. They should of course be such as to combine the least handling of the objects with the most worthy copies of them. In some museums, and in the Louvre sculpture galleries, only dry-plate photographs are allowed to the general photographer—at least, this was so until lately. At the Bibliothèque Nationale very great restriction, if not total prohibition, was placed upon the photography of mss. some time ago. In any case, supervision by officials should be exercised over all kinds of photography. Copying requires a motionless floor. It is a good plan to photograph books, etc., on a horizontal stand, as they require in this position less fixing and therefore less handling, and are also better lighted. This may be done by placing a very fine silver mirror at an angle of 45° to the axis of the lens. This of course gives unreversed negatives, which, however, might easily be reversed in different ways."

In the course of the ensuing discussion, Mr. Overall exhibited a copy of Aggas's map of London, executed in fac-simile by Mr. E. J. Francis, and a History of the Charters of the Leather-sellers' Company, with fac-similes of the charters by the same hand. In reply to questions, Mr. Wilson said, with regard to *Photogravure*, that he did not think that Dujardin's copies were from the glass itself. Dujardin took care to obtain good copies of the engravings, and reproduced them very exactly, even to the burr. As to wood blocks, water injures the fiber of the wood; therefore, some use ether or alcohol. One of the commonest methods is an Albert-type transferred to the wood. Illustrated charters, such as those produced by Mr. Overall, might now be reproduced, as to the text, by photography, and the colored portions by hand. For colors, hand-work had a charm not attainable by mechanical processes.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Wilson for his interesting paper, and the valuable specimens exhibited by him, was then carried unanimously.

Mr. Overall produced some specimens of morocco cloth for binding, which had been sent to him by Mr. Archibald Winterbottom, and some conversation on binding ensued.

Two new members were proposed, and will be balloted for at the next meeting.

The further consideration of the resolution as to ancient Parish Registers was adjourned to the next meeting.



## COMMUNICATIONS.

## CLASS ADAPTATION IN THE SELECTION OF BOOKS—THE FICTION QUESTION.

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
WORCESTER, MASS., May 9, 1880.

I HAVE been very much interested in reading the confession of "Peccator" as to novel reading, recorded in the number of the *JOURNAL* for April. Such a recital awakens sympathy and stimulates to philanthropic effort.

I agree with the writer in believing that it is too often the case that the poor are regarded indiscriminately as not having a taste for good reading. In connection with the work which I am doing this winter to bring about close relations between the public library and the grammar and some lower grades of schools, it has come to my knowledge, in several instances, that children who had been in the habit of reading poor books were ready to read good ones as soon as they were placed in their hands, and to read them, too, with avidity.

I hope to cite some of these cases when, as this summer, I have a paper to write on the relation of the Public Library to the Public School.

I am sorry to see that "Peccator" thinks I displayed national prejudice in the paper read by me at the last meeting of the American Library Association.

I said, it is true, that the average Irish boy relished very much the stories of Horatio Alger, Jr., but meant to bring him forward as a typical example of boys of all nationalities who have a somewhat hard time in life on account of their poverty, introducing the example only to show that such boys were likely to have fancies regarding the facts of existence, imbibed from reading Mr. Alger's books, knocked out of them by the somewhat rough experiences which they necessarily have in actual life. I know that there are very great differences in capacity and training among the children of the poor, and am not likely to place a low estimate upon the intellectual power or attainments of Irish boys, brought, as I am daily, into close contact with the pupils of the High School in Worcester, where boys of foreign parentage often take the highest places in their classes, and with students of the College of the Holy Cross, also situated in this city.

It may be that sensational stories are not needed in the town where "Peccator" serves as librarian. I am inclined to think there is no town where it is well to provide citizens with dime novels, but I feel very sure that in some of the wards of cities and in many villages it is well to give readers a con-

siderable proportion of somewhat exciting stories, in order to secure the best results of library work.

"Peccator" wholly misunderstands the paragraph he refers to and the whole tenor of my paper when he supposes me to have made the proposition "to stock the branches of the library which are located in the meaner parts of the city with sensational novels—with novels that are not only sensational, but vicious."

What I really said was as follows: After having made mention of the names of certain sensational writers, such as Mrs. Southworth and "Oliver Optic," and stated that provision should be made for supplying books of this class to certain portions of the community, I said: "The best thing to do in such a case, however, is, it seems to me, to have a branch library supplied with a considerable proportion of exciting stories," in the part of the town where they are especially needed,—saying, at the same time: "I apprehend these libraries could be made acceptable to readers even if a considerable portion of the stories in them were of a comparatively high order. Thus Trowbridge's 'Neighbor Jackwood,' Miss Yonge's 'Heir of Redcliffe,' 'Mary Barton,' by Mrs. Gaskell, are enjoyed by simple readers." There is nothing here in advocacy of filling up branches with sensational stories alone, or with stories alone. I did not mean to suggest such a course. There is nothing here about introducing "vicious" books into such branches. To do such a thing as this would be repugnant to my whole moral nature.

While I am not aware of having national or class prejudices, it does seem to me obvious that there are differences among men and boys, occasioned by the opportunities for culture which they have enjoyed, and that it is the part of wisdom in establishing libraries and branches to consider carefully what opportunities of this kind the constituencies have enjoyed, as a suggestion in regard to the kind of books to be put into these institutions.

One word, in conclusion, in regard to the examples of "Peccator." I can easily understand how immature minds and uncultured persons would readily read Miss Alcott's books when brought to their attention. Still, it must be borne in mind that many of the most careful mothers prefer, in the case of several of her writings, that their children should not read them when young.

I always like to see a taste for Scott and Dickens among readers, but am fain to believe that an interest in these writers develops late in the minds of a large portion of readers, and that it seems to me very unwise to leave such persons without reading until the taste for books of this kind appears.



Let us all work heartily to raise the standard of reading in the community. Let us all also strive, in doing this work, to use good judgment.

SAMUEL S. GREEN.

*A SPECIMEN LETTER.*

. . . . , March 31, 1880.

OH, for the pen of a ready writer! I would write you of the immense relief that new catalog has given me. I *can* stay away half an hour now and not hear when I return of some book that was called for, and for the life of them they could not tell where it was or whether we ever had it. For my part, I could not see how any one could stay in a library and not know about the books—the outside I mean (for I am tremendously ignorant of the contents of most of mine, but I did always like to read titles and signs); but they tell me all people are not alike. Strange! The “peoples” begin to see the fun in the catalog, I think. The trustees remark the quietness and business-like look of the people. We all begin to breathe freely, and look ten years younger. Think my hair is turning black again!

I stop work sometimes, yes, many times, and lean back in my chair and laugh to think how we used to run off the titles of books, just like the tin peddlers that go around to the farm-houses. Catch me in a library again without a catalog! I would like to make another, or rather I would like to help the best cataloger in the country make one. We have sold 420, at 25c. each. It was prophesied that we would not sell 100 even. Am going to work to straighten out my card catalog now, and coax the trustees to buy a case.

I received enclosed letter, and sent them reports, catalog rules, etc., and told them all I knew (didn't take long), and added, “Of course you take the *LIBRARY JOURNAL*”; but I doubt if they do. I receive so many letters of this kind.

I have been helping the . . . . Library. They had the old registry system and no catalog. The librarian will check off mine, as I used to the Boston catalogs. I spent one day there, and she stayed a week with us, studying up matters and things.

LOUISVILLE, KY., March 9, 1880.

*To the Librarian of . . . . . Library.*

DEAR SIR: The library of this society, containing about forty thousand volumes, has heretofore been used as a free reference library. In order to increase its usefulness, it has been determined to set apart such books as are suitable for a circulating library, and make additions of books most useful for this purpose.

It is the desire of the society: 1st. To make its library of the greatest possible service to the community. 2d. As far as possible to insure the safety, proper care and prompt return of books taken from the library; and 3d. To secure the most rigid economy in administering the affairs of the circulating library consistent with its usefulness and safety.

It is thought that this can best be accomplished by comparing the methods used by other libraries, before adopting rules for its government. The object of this note is to request you to favor us with your views and experience on this subject, and to oblige us by sending to us copies of all rules, blanks, labels,—in short, everything that will enable us to obtain a clear understanding of your system and methods.

The society will feel greatly obliged for any and all documents in regard to your library, its character, history, management, and especially its catalog. When our catalog shall be printed, a copy will be sent you in return.

The society will promptly and gratefully repay any cost of shipping, either by express or mail, as soon as I am advised of the amount. Packages may be addressed to me (officially) at the Library, 4th avenue; letters either to the Library or to my office, No. 47 East Broadway.

Yours, very respectfully,

E. A. GRANT,

*Secretary and Chairman Library Committee.*

NOTES FROM ROCHESTER.

WE are rejoicing at the University of Rochester over the prospect of an increased library endowment. For some fifteen years we have had a fund of \$25,000, the gift of Gen. John F. Rathbone, of Albany. A few years ago Gen. Rathbone promised that this fund should be doubled when a first-class fire-proof building should be erected for the growing library. That condition has been met, and now the promise is fulfilled by two subscriptions of \$12,500 each by Gen. Rathbone and his brother, Mr. Lewis Rathbone. With \$50,000 as an income-producing fund, our attitude toward publishers and book-sellers generally will be materially changed. We believe in buying the best of the new books, and accumulating the standard old works as we have opportunity to get them advantageously. It should be added, that this addition to our library fund is part of about \$250,000 added to the endowment of the University during the present collegiate year.

During the year we have received two handsome gifts of books. Dr. E. L. Magoon, of Philadelphia, has been all his life a collector of works of art. His

paintings were sent to Vassar College some time ago, and now a choice selection from his books have come to us, 640 v. in all. There are among them many standard works on painting and painters, architecture and the architects, with engravings of their works, a fine copy of the first edition of Ruskin, and others which cannot be mentioned, all in fine bindings and good condition. The other gift is Napoleon's "Egypt," sent to us by Mrs. Robert S. Oliver, of Albany. This rare work, worthy alike of its subject and the great emperor who ordered its publication, is the more appreciated because it is a copy of the first edition, of which, according to the wish of Napoleon, few were printed. This, with Lepsius, which we have had some time, and some smaller works, brings us up on Egypt pretty well.

After studying shelf-arrangement and numbering for years, I have adopted substantially the system devised by Mr. Schwartz, which he calls the "combined system." Some slight modifications seemed desirable, and some others were necessary to save the work we had already done in fixing our classification. We have the work of numbering well begun. Notwithstanding all that has been published on this subject, I wish at some time to say a word or two relative to this system. My admiration of it has grown steadily as I have compared it, for the practical purpose of settling the question for our own library, with all the other methods I have seen. One modification, though slight, I am sure Mr. Schwartz himself would be pleased with.

A movement has been started toward a public library in Rochester. We have a population of 90,000, and no public library worthy of the name; and we feel the disgrace which attaches to such a state of things. The idea of general taxation does not meet with favor. The plan is first to secure from the richer portion of the city enough thousands to insure success, and then for those of smaller means and the young men to put in their hundreds, and their pledges of annual payments for a term of years, so as to start on a liberal scale. We wish to make the library, if it is started at all, command respect at the outset as one of the first of our city institutions.

OTIS H. ROBINSON.

#### ZOOLOGICAL SUBJECTS PARTLY CLASSIFIED BY THE DEWEY SYSTEM.

BY B. PICKMAN MANN, BIBLIOGRAPHICAL EDITOR OF *Psyche*.

THE following decimal distribution, principally of zoological subjects, was made more than a year ago, and has been tested by use and criticism since.

It is offered now for farther criticism, preliminary to its use in an index soon to be published. The division has been carried, generally, only so far as the needs of an entomologist require, but a division of certain botanical subjects has been carried one step farther, since the relations of the subjects seemed to permit this to be done.

The significance of Mr. Dewey's division 591 is extended, but the original significance recurs in division 5917.

- 580 Botany.
- 581 PHYSIOLOGICAL BOTANY.
- 5811 VEGETAL PHYSIOLOGY.
- 5812 " PATHOLOGY.
- 5813
- 5814 VEGETAL MORPHOLOGY; HOMOLOGY.
- 5815 " BIOLOGY; HABITS AND BEHAVIOR.
- 5816
- 5817 VEGETAL ORGANOGRAPHY; GROSS ANATOMY.
- 5818 VEGETAL HISTOLOGY; MINUTE ANATOMY.
- 5819 ANALOGY OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS.
- 590 Zoology.
- 5901 PHILOSOPHY OF ZOOLOGY.
- 5902 COMPENDS; SYSTEMS OF CLASSIFICATION OF ANIMALS.
- 5903 DICTIONARIES.
- 5904
- 5905
- 5906
- 5907
- 5908
- 5909
- 5910
- 5911 PHYSIOLOGICAL ZOOLOGY.
- 59111 ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY; COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY.
- 591111 Circulation.
- 591112 Respiration.
- 5911121 Nature of respiration.
- 5911122 Dermal "
- 5911123 Aquivascular "
- 5911124 Bronchial "
- 5911125 Tracheal "
- 5911126
- 5911127 Pulmonary "
- 5911128
- 5911129 Exhalation of aqueous vapor.
- 591113 Nutrition.
- 5911131 Acquisition of food.
- 5911132 Digestion of food.
- 5911133 Assimilation of food.
- 5911134 Growth.
- 5911135 Development.
- 5911136 Repair of waste.
- 5911137 Production of organic material.
- 5911138 Conditions of nutritive activity.
- 5911139 Longevity; vitality.
- 591114 Secretion and excretion.
- 5911141 Mucous and sebaceous.
- 5911142 Sericeous.

- 591143 Digestive; salivary, gastric, pancreatic.  
 591144 Odoriferous, sweet, etc.  
 591145 Poisonous; gall-formation; caprification.  
 591146 Mammary; spermatic.  
 591147 Lachrymal.  
 591148 Biliary.  
 591149 Urinary and fecal.  
 59115 *Variation.*  
 591151 Polymorphic variation.  
 591152 Geographic "  
 591153 Heterophagic "  
 591154 Polygoneutic "  
 591155 Mimetic.  
 591156 Sexual.  
 591157  
 591158 Hybrids.  
 591159 Monstrosities.  
 59116 *Generation.*  
 591161 Abiogenesis.  
 591162 Parthenogenesis; neutera.  
 591163 Metagenesis; paedogenesis; nurses.  
 591164  
 591165 Fission and gemmation.  
 591166 Fecundation.  
 591167 Hermaphrodites.  
 591168 Vivipara.  
 591169 Reparation of wounds.  
 59117 *Development; embryology* [576].  
 591171 Development of sperm-cells.  
 591172 " " germ-cells; micropyle.  
 591173 " " embryo.  
 591174 Metamorphosis; larva, pupa; moulting.  
 591175 Hypermetamorphosis.  
 591176 Production of sexes.  
 591177  
 591178 Superfoetation.  
 591179  
 59118 *Nervous functions and sensation.*  
 59119 *Other functions.*  
 5912 ANIMAL PATHOLOGY.  
 5913  
 5914 ANIMAL MORPHOLOGY.  
 5915 ANIMAL BIOLOGY; HABITS AND BEHAVIOR.  
 59151 *Instinct resp. reason.*  
 59152 *Abode.*  
 59153  
 59154 *Seasons.*  
 59155 *Sociability.*  
 59156 *Philoprogenitiveness.*  
 59157 *Usefulness.*  
 591571 " in nature.  
 591572 " as medicine.  
 591573 " as food for man.  
 591574  
 591575  
 591576 Usefulness in chemistry.  
 591577 Usefulness in manufactures.  
 591578  
 591579  
 59158 *Noxiousness.*  
 591581 Domestically noxious animals.  
 591582 Animals causing diseases.  
 591583 " injuring provisions.  
 591584 " " inorganic substances.  
 591585 " " vegetal products.  
 591586 " " animal "  
 591587 " " furniture, books and goods.  
 591588 " " living plants.  
 591589 " " animals.  
 59159 *Other relations of animals to the surrounding world.*  
 5916  
 5917 ANIMAL ORGANOGRAPHY; COMPARATIVE ANATOMY.  
 59171 *Circulatory organs.*  
 59172 *Respiratory organs.*  
 59173 *Nutritory organs.*  
 59174 *Secretory and excretory organs.*  
 59175  
 59176 *Generatory organs.*  
 59177 *Motory organs.*  
 59178 *Nervous system.*  
 59179 *Integument; dermoskeleton.*  
 5918 ANIMAL HISTOLOGY.  
 5919 ANALOGIES BETWEEN ANIMALS.  
 595 ARTICULATA.  
 5951 HEXAPODA.  
 595101  
 595102 Systems of classification of hexapoda.  
 595103 Dictionaries " "  
 etc., etc.  
 59511 *Hymenoptera.*  
 595111  
 595112 Systems of classification of hymenoptera.  
 595113 Dictionaries " "  
 etc., etc.  
 59512 *Lepidoptera.*  
 59513 *Diptera.*  
 59514 *Coleoptera.*  
 59515 *Heteroptera.*  
 59516 *Homoptera.*  
 59517 *Orthoptera.*  
 59518 *Neuroptera.*  
 59519 *Other hexapoda.*  
 5952 ARACHNIDA.  
 5953 MYRIAPODA.  
 5954 CRUSTACEA.  
 5955  
 5956  
 5957  
 5958  
 5959

INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY IN  
AUSTRIA.

THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL COMMITTEE of the Scientific Club of Vienna voted, Jan. 22, to contribute as far as should be in their power to the introduction of the international catalog-card of Prof. Burchard. They now issue a specimen, of which a fac-simile is here printed, slightly reduced, and an explanation which I condense.

**Met****Histoire**

Mémoires

**Metternich, Richard (Prince de).**

## Mémoires.

Documents et Écrits divers laissés par le Prince de Metternich, chancelier de Cour et d'État; publiés par son fils le Prince Richard de Metternich, classés et réunies par M. A. de Klinkowström.

Première partie: Depuis la naissance de Metternich jusqu'au congrès de Vienne (1773-1815). 1. vol. avec le portrait et facsimile du grand chancelier. XVI<sup>e</sup> et 372 P. 2. vol. VIII et 545 P.

Prix des 2 volumes 20 francs.

gr. in-8. Paris 1880. E. Plon & Cie.

Vol. Cat. Nr.

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Expl gratuit \_\_\_\_\_ de \_\_\_\_\_

Relié le \_\_\_\_\_ en \_\_\_\_\_ volumes.

Burchard, étiquette internationale de bibliothèque.

The paper weighs about 2½ gr.; it is white, and not too smooth for writing. It is 14 × 8½ cm.,—small enuf, that is, to be pasted on a postal card or put in a small volume. Drawers filled with such cards will not occupy much space; it can be cut down to be put in catalogs where

smaller cards are used, and pasted on larger cards if necessary. [I may remark that the American standard card, 12½ × 5 cm., that is, about half as large, has these advantages in a higher degree.] The printing runs across and not along the card, because it is easier to read short lines. [This advantage is counterbalanced by the increased difficulty of reading the lower part of the long card.] The language of the title is to be that of the book, of course; the rest of the card is to be in the language of the country in which it is issued. Publishers are requested to annex one of these cards to each of their books, pamphlets, maps, engravings, and to put five into copies intended for public libraries. Cards will soon be made for all books that have already been issued, for publishers will soon find that they are an excellent advertisement. The collection of postage stamps has given rise to a special branch of commerce and to books devoted to that subject; the international card will be still more likely to give rise to the formation of special and general catalogs, and to create an article of commerce that will be in great and steady demand.

C: A. CUTTER.

THE OLDEST LIBRARY IN THE NORTH-  
WEST.

We quote the following report on this subject from the *Marietta* [O.] *Register* of April 8:

The committee appointed by the Commissioner of Education to hear "claims and proofs of priority in the establishment of social (or public as distinguished from private) libraries in the North-western Territory, report that they have had before them the claims of three localities, viz.: (1) Cincinnati; (2) Ames township, Athens county, and (3) Belpre, Washington county, and that they are unanimously of the opinion that the claim of the last named place has been made good.

"The evidence upon which they rely consists of two documents. First, a receipt in the following terms:

" 'MARIETTA, 26th Oct., 1796.

" 'Received of Jonathan Stone, by the hand of Benj. Miles, ten dollars for his share in the Putnam Family Library.

" 'W. P. PUTNAM, Clerk.'

"Second, a record in the Probate Office of Washington county, among the items in the inventory of the estate of Jonathan Stone, dated Sept. 2, 1801, reads thus:

" 'One share in the Putnam Library, \$10.00.'

"It seems clear to your committee from these documents that the 'Putnam Family Library'

here referred to was a 'social library with stockholders and officers, and that it was in existence in October, 1796.' This antedates, by a number of years, the other claims.

"The library seems after a time to have been merged into the 'Belpre Library' or 'Belpre Farmers' Library.'

"Your committee does not find sufficient facts upon which to decide between the Cincinnati and Ames libraries as to priority of inception.

"There seems no doubt that the Ames Library Association was definitely organized in 1802, and quite probably in 1801. The first funds raised for the purchase of books were derived from the sale of raccoon and bear skins, which were sent on to Boston early in the summer of 1803, the first books being purchased in August, 1803, and reaching their destination in December, 1803. The committee consider it proved that the Cincinnati library was organized in March, 1802, and they count it entirely probable that this library was supplied with books at this time.

"As to sustained vigor and efficient service in its community, the 'Western Library Association'—the 'Coonskin' of Ames—seems clearly to have surpassed all its competitors.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD ORTON,  
ISAIAH PILLARS,  
J. J. BURNS."

#### TRANSFERABLE BOOK-COVERS.

IN response to a query in the *Tribune*, as to library management of cheap, thin, popular quarto books, Mr. F. B. Perkins answered as follows, introducing a few details applicable to periodicals also:

"My suggestion is, to obtain from a book-binder a sufficient number of sets of transferable covers, and to sew a part of these on each book or number of a periodical before it is circulated.

"Directions for making and using: 1. Cut from stout pasteboard (not "wood" board, but good, strong pasteboard) pieces of the quarto or octavo size required. Probably one quarto and one octavo size will do. 2. Cut from the back edge of each piece thus produced a narrow slip—say three-quarters of an inch wide. 3. Cover slip and piece with book-binder's muslin in usual book-binder's style, as if slip and piece were one, but letting the cloth make a "joint" between slip and piece. Each slip and piece thus cloth-covered and jointed represents half a book-cover, and a pair of them represents a book-cover without any back. 4. Fit your quarto or magazine number between

two of these covers; with a brad-awl make three holes through the narrow slips and the book between, one midway between top and bottom, and one each, two or three inches from top and bottom; with a proper needle and stout linen thread, doubled, sew through these holes; when the thread has covered the spaces between the holes on each side (making a figure of eight through the book), tie the thread securely and cut it off. Now the narrow slips sewed firmly on hold the cover safely on the book, while the joints permit it to open sufficiently for all reading purposes. 5. When the first rage for the book is over, and it is either spoiled and ready to throw away, or exhausted and ready to be bound and set at rest on the shelf, cut the linen thread, take off your covers, and put them on another book, putting the awl this time through the holes already in the cover. The covers will cost from ten to twenty-five cents a pair, according to advantages."

[Unless very large numbers are wanted, and perhaps even then, it would be vastly cheaper to order "The Library Binder" from the Supply Department. This has metal side strips, and, being made by the 1000, can be furnished less than a poorer one can be made. It is simply a specially good and strong form, like that described above by Mr. Perkins.—M. D.]

#### CLIPPINGS FROM PERIODICALS.

ON page 77, v. 3, we gave the plan for compressing periodical literature,—simply cutting out the valuable articles, classing and binding them into volumes, throwing away all the rest. This will have value more to private book-owners, who must keep their libraries within certain limits of space. A public librarian would hardly assume to cut out and throw away *ad lib*. I suggest, emphatically, that people who send periodicals or clippings to business men do condense. The thoughtlessness of correspondents is a constant annoyance in this respect to any editor or librarian, and the occasional good sense of a man who makes perfectly sure at a glance just what he wants you to see is refreshing. My ideal in this respect attaches a little printed slip "with compliments of ———," and I know who sends the matter. Others could at least put their initials or write their names. My man crosses out with a dash of blue pencil any matter on the back or otherwise attached to what he wishes me to read, so I never have the trouble of wading through unnecessary matter to be sure of getting his point. Others could at least run a black pencil crosswise over matter that I need not



examine, though a colored one is so much plainer, that it is better. My man sends me only what is necessary, though there is usually something on the back to be crossed out. He cuts it out neatly and then cuts out and pastes on my slip the heading, with name and date of the paper, which stands at the head of the second page in most papers. This tells me the source and date. Others might pin this on if they had no paste, and tear it out if they had no shears, instead of sending eight huge pages with a five-line note for me to see, buried somewhere in the mass, quite possibly unmarked. It is little short of a positive insult to suppose a busy man can examine all this mass, looking for a stray paragraph on some subject that interests him. We soon come to throw such inflections in the waste-basket without looking. Then we find occasionally that we have thrown away something that we very much want to see, and for a time wade through the papers sent, looking for the grain of gold in the mountain of chaff. Librarians should themselves set a proper example in this, and teach their constituents the better way. Bits of local history or other matter important for the librarian to know or preserve will be welcome if sent in shape so he can find what is wanted at a glance. If the paper contains more than one item to be read be sure and number them 1, 2, etc. Many articles have editorial notes on another page. If numbered, one sees at once, whichever he may notice first, that there is another. Otherwise, he may see the least important, read it, and throw the paper away. A still better way is to mark in colored pencil a large figure showing how many different mark passages are to be looked for; e. g., I open an 8 p. paper and see a few lines with a very plain 3 against it. I know that there are two more mark passages each with 3 against it. Whichever I see first, I am in no danger of overlooking any of the others.

MELVIL DUL.

#### BINDING PERIODICAL SCRAPS.

It seems to me that a kind of scrap-book which I use might be adopted with advantage in public libraries,—for consultation in all, and for circulation in small ones, like that of Quincy. I have, so to say, "collected" magazines for many years, and, when obtained, have been in the habit of separating the wheat from the chaff. The articles which constituted the former I used to bind, keeping a running index to the whole; but this is a clumsy contrivance, even for magazines, and incapable of extension. My present plan is this: I

have covers made of pasteboard, with common pasteboard hinges, size  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $7\frac{1}{4}$ . These covers cost me 10 cents a pair. With a small awl I pierce three holes in the hinge, corresponding holes having been made in papers to be bound, and sew them with heavy twine. A volume thus sewed is strong enough to stand a good deal of rough usage. The needle I pull thru with the aid of pinners, and when the threads are thru, but before they are tied, I place the volume in a small dollar vise attached to a shelf of my revolving book-case, and then draw them tight with the pinners. The advantage of this over regular binding is not merely cheapness, but the convenience it affords of constant rebinding with very little trouble, and, therefore, of keeping the papers in alphabetical order. But not only magazine articles can be thus preserved; newspaper cuttings, also, bound in this way, are much more accessible than when pasted into books. When I wish to preserve such a cutting, I leave a margin an inch wide on the left hand and sew thru this. Between each article, again, I place a blank page (French folio), on which I write notes of other articles or books on subjects which (alphabetically) belong there. The size of the covers which I now use is the result of considerable experience. They are unnecessarily large for the ordinary magazine page, but not inconveniently so, and the size permits the insertion of half-pages from *The Nation*, etc. Half-pages can be thus bound, even when the article covers both front and back. In general, the arrangement I follow is alphabetical, but with biographical articles I make an exception. Persons of great importance,—Bonaparte, for instance,—or those who, because living in our time, are much written about, are, of course, entered in the order of their names; but the great mass of lesser lights are important only when taken together, and scattered through a hundred volumes would be lost. I have therefore adopted this method:—I divide the papers relating to each country under Church, Commerce, Education, Geography, History, Language, Literature, Society, and place the persons described, chronologically arranged, according as they are ecclesiastical, historical, literary or social lights. Review articles (unless the book reviewed is a fiction) I place under its subject, not under its author, so that I am able instantly to recall to mind the important works on a given subject.

Of course, no library would wish to give up its regular sets of bound magazines in order to have such a collection, but extra and odd numbers might in this way be profitably utilized.

Q. P.

29 B'way, Bangor, Me.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY.

EDITED BY CHARLES A. CUTTER.

## NOTICES.

BIGMORE, E. C., and WYMAN, C. W. H. A Bibliography of printing, with notes and illustrations. Vol. 1. (A-L.) London, B. Quaritch, 1880. 12 + 449 p. sm. Q. Only 250 copies printed.

The compilers deserve great credit for their laborious and useful undertaking, although they have paid too much attention to the modern literature of printing, somewhat to the exclusion of older books. The titles are rather brief, but they appear to be carefully drawn up; the notes convey much interesting information in a readable manner. The printers' marks are a valuable feature of the work; the other illustrations might have been omitted. H: R: T.

A. *Library economy, history, and reports.*

AMER. ANTIQ. SOC. Report of the librarian. (Pages 41-62 of the Proceedings, no. 74. Worcester, 1880. 117 p. O.)

Added 744 v., 816 pm., 123 files of newspapers.

ASTOR LIBRARY, N. Y. 31st an. report. Albany, 1880. 49 p. O.

Added, 5,869 v.; total, 189,114 ("not being a circulating library it has no duplicates; not being a universal depository it has very little chaff"); read, 147,112 v.; readers, 51,725; alcove readers, 7,317. "The privilege of study in the alcoves is made as much as possible a matter of rule rather than of favor, every new applicant being required to file a letter vouching for him, either from one of the trustees of the library or from some other prominent citizen, and then to explain the nature of his researches sufficiently to show that they require free access to the books. On compliance with these conditions, a table and chair are put at his disposal in some convenient alcove, for a time proportionate to his work. Of course, the visitors it is desirable to encourage are those who use the library for some definite purpose of culture or enlightenment, and not for the indulgence of an idle habit of intemperate and promiscuous reading.

"The card catalogue continues to be kept up, but nothing like the elaborate index at Harvard College can be attempted at present. Without reference to the question whether manuscript cards are the best permanent form for a catalogue, there can be no doubt that in some form a good index to a library, extending not only to books but to important parts of books, doubles the practical value of the collection.

"Mr. Astor has given to the library three lots of ground, 75 feet front by 100 feet in depth, and announced his intention of erecting thereon an addition to the present library building, 65 feet by 100. With this addition, the library will have an increased capacity for books amounting to 120,000 volumes."

If the Astor were a circulating library, this number of volumes would be absurdly small in

proportion to the space. In a library for consultation, where study room must be provided for many readers, and where research in the alcoves is encouraged, the proportion of floor space to shelving is not so unreasonable. And yet there must be some difficulties in the library service where so few books are spread over so much room. But New Yorkers are accustomed to great distances.

BROWNE, W: Hand. Libraries of Baltimore. (*In* JOHNS HOPKINS UNIV. Circular, April.) 2 p.

"There are accessible, under various conditions, to readers in Baltimore about 197,450 v. More than 600 periodicals are also received at the libraries."

CIRCULATING LIBRARIES; how Boston readers are supplied with books; a million free volumes not enough. (*In* *Sunday Herald*, Apr. 18.) 2 col.

There are in Boston 27 circulating libraries, with collections of books ranging from 1,000 to 16,000 each, and containing in the aggregate nearly if not quite 100,000 volumes. They are all conducted upon substantially the same plan of renting the use of books at from 2 to 4 cents a day, or 5 to 10 cents a week. New books cost twice as much as old ones. And this illustrates the principle upon which these institutions are patronized; for, whereas Mr. Emerson's rule for reading is, "Never read any book that is not a year old," the average patron of the circulating library omits the negative, and, apparently, acts on the rule: "Never read any book that is a year old." A year, do we say? Nay, fortunate indeed is the book that can "run" for four months in these "most brisk and giddy-paced times." "What have you that is new?" is the standing inquiry. And it is to more adequately meet this demand that the circulating library exists. Its purpose is not to educate the community, nor, except incidentally, to bother itself with questions of standards and needs. The wants and the convenience of the public furnish it with its excuse for being. Finding a considerable class of readers who prefer to pay a small price for the reading of a book, to avoid the crowds, the red-tape entanglements and the frequent delays incident to a popular free system, the circulating library organizes a supply for this demand. More than this, it establishes personal and confidential relations with its patrons, as an official corporation cannot well do. It not only provides the newest books, but so studies the tastes of its patrons that it is enabled to assist them in their choice of reading. The number of persons who know what they want to read, or why they read at all except to kill time, is surprisingly small. What the people read is a curious and instructive study. The lists at the circulating libraries afford a better answer than the catalogues of the public institutions. For there is no room, in a purely business venture, for any dead material. The books which "no library should be without" are generally conspicuous by their absence in the popular collections, where every volume is expected to pay for its keeping, or step down and out to make room for a new book that will. That "sham admiration for literature," concerning which Mr. Payn has just written a pungent satire in the *Nineteenth Century*, finds small place with readers who must pay four cents a day for the privilege of indulging

in it. The regular patrons of the "circulating" pay more respect to Mr. Emerson's third rule than to his first, for they certainly "never read any but what they like." ... Milton, Dryden, Pope, Addison and Steele, to go back no further, make up no part of the modern 10,000. Swift, Fielding, Smollet, Richardson, Sterne, Goldsmith—you need not ask for them at this bustling stall. Even Burke, Scott, Edgeworth, Coleridge, Lamb, Macaulay, and the famous names in English literature nearer our own time, have but an occasional dusty and little-thumbed representative in this live collection. Emerson is "little called for." An interest in Hawthorne's works has been stimulated by the recent publications concerning our first and greatest economist, but Cooper is only a traditional name, and Irving is as dead as a mummy. But who is read, you ask, if the immortals are forgotten? To confess that you do not know Dora Russell, George Fenn, Anna Steele and Maria Grant is to argue yourself unread—at the circulating library—and to call for Scott, Bulwer, Dickens or Thackeray places you at once among the belated people or the dupes of duty, who help to make up the variety in the world of readers. Charles Reade and Wilkie Collins scarcely hold their own against the newer favorites, of whom William Black and Thomas Hardy are representatives, and the manufacturers of society novels, dealing with fashionable and domestic life in England, find a more steady market for their wares than the genius of George Eliot. Turning to our native authors, one is in a measure prepared, after these discoveries, to find that Virginia Townsend and Mrs. Southworth still have a hundred readers at the circulating library where Irving or Cooper has one, and that Hawthorne is entirely distanced by May Agnes Fleming. The explanation of the absence of the great names in literature is, of course, that they are not in paying demand; and it is furthermore suggested that those who admire these authors are generally in a position to own their works. It is, however, the testimony of those who are brought into closest relations with the reading public that the "fathers" of our literature are in a measure outgrown and left behind, like the progenitors of many other things excellent in their way. Irving, they say, is tedious, even to cultivated readers of to-day. He was a literary gentleman of leisure, writing for men of his class in a leisurely age, before what Mr. Lowell wittily describes as "the responsibility of the individual for the universe" was invented. His humor is too labored; his characters too much elaborated; his descriptions too long drawn out. As for Cooper, the Indian has been found out. Contact with the real savage has put us out of conceit with the poetic ideal, just as knowledge of the sailor's life and the era of steamboats have destroyed the romance of the sea, and made "sea novels" largely a thing of the past. There is at some of the libraries a small but steady call for Scott and Cooper and Irving, and the popular favorites of a bygone generation; but nothing to be compared with the works of authors that are reviewed, advertised, written and talked about to-day. It is, perhaps, enough to say, by way of consolation for any supposed degeneracy of the popular taste, that never before were so many good books read, and that, all things considered, the thought of each generation is the best adapted to its needs and tastes.

CLINTON (Mass.) BIGELOW FREE P. L. 6th. an. report. n. p., n. d. 8 p. O.

Added, 500 v.; total, 8,760; issued, 31,723. "A new system of charging books (the check-box system) was introduced. This has been found a great improvement on the old system, being equally exact but far less clumsy.

"There is a prevalent opinion in the community, that because a library is a *free* and a *public* library, every book must be suitable to every individual; that no book shall be productive of harm to any child, or under any circumstances; and that if a child takes out an injurious book, or one not suitable to it, its parents have a right to declare that the directors shirk their duty, and that the library is not improving, but rather injuring, the young.

"The directors of this library do not consider themselves the proper persons to decide what books shall be read by any particular individual. They are not the censors of the public reading. They try to furnish the best books, and also intend to furnish no bad ones.

"Parents and guardians cannot, must not, shirk the responsibility of directing the reading of the young under their charge. If they do not wish their children to read fiction, let them see to it that no works of fiction are on their cards; on the other hand, if they wish them to read works on science, or history, or travels, let them see to it that such books are on their cards. They may be assured that they will always get the books found on their cards. If parents are too indolent or too indifferent to do this, who will do it?"

FRIENDS' FREE LIB. AND READING-ROOM, Germantown, Penn. An. report. n. p., 1880. 22 p. O.

Added, 678 v.; total, 9,349; 20,954 visits. The book room is nearly full.

GLASGOW (Scott.) MITCHELL LIB. An. report. Proof. n. p., 1880. 7 p. F.

Total, Dec. 31, 1879, over 28,000; issued, 1879, 379,748. The special collections are "The poet's corner," "The Glasgow collection" and "The collection of early Glasgow printing." The principles on which books are selected for purchase are: 1. That the library should, as far as practicable, represent every shade of human thought and every variety of opinion. 2. That books of standard value and importance should form the principal portion of the library. 3. That it should contain those rare and costly works which are generally out of the reach of individual students. 4. That it should not duplicate expensive works which are in the University Library or Stirling's Public Library. 5. Not at present to buy fiction. In 1879 a gentleman gave 155 v. of standard novels, which, with 5 other vols., circulated from June to Dec. at the rate of over 4,000 issues a month,—that is, each volume was issued 25 times a month. Had there been a fiction famine in Glasgow?

THE GREEK LIBRARY at Smyrna. (In *Academy*, Mar. 6.) 1½ col.

"Few travelers are aware of the interesting collection of objects of ancient art which are kept in the library and museum of the Greek community at Smyrna, known as that of the Evangelical school, near the Greek Cathedral of S. Photina."

INDIANAPOLIS (*Ind.*). *School Commissioners*. Manual of the Public Schools. Rules of ... the Public Library. *Ind.*, 18, 9. 119 p. T. (P. L. rules, p. 108-112.)

"The P. L. is maintained under the authority of the Board of School Commissioners, for which purpose it is authorized to levy a tax each year of not exceeding 2 cents on the \$100 of taxable property."

JERMAIN, Mary F. D. (*ps. OPTIMA*). Something about libraries. (Pages 19-28 of *National lit. monthly*, Toledo, March.)

"There is scarcely a day but many pupils, some of them barely out of the primary departments, come for books that will give them information concerning some particular subject. ... Questions are constantly sprung upon the library attendant which the wisdom of a Solon would scarcely satisfy. We gave ourselves considerable credit for sagacity when a serious-looking person came with a request for 'The Miller's Grindstone,' and it occurred to us that Hugh Miller's 'Old Red Sandstone' was the book required." The usual discussion of fiction follows, with the usual pleas in its favor. Of Mrs. Holmes it is said that her "stories are doubtless shallow affairs, but her pictures of life are honest and true; they are based on the right perception of the reasons for the novel, which, as we take it, is to set the disorders of life aright, and to make the reader satisfied in the contemplation of final justice. She has succeeded in this and investing every detail with an interest which makes her books more widely preferred among the class of readers which it is important for libraries to reach than any other writer whom we know."

LAWRENCE (*Mass.*) FREE P. L. 8th an. report. Lawrence, 1880. 27 p. O.

Added, 1,794 v.; total, 19,779; issued, 141,733 (Fiction and Juveniles 71.8 per cent.). The amount of fiction read decreases yearly.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF PORTLAND. 15th and 16th annual reports, 1878-9. Portland, Oregon, 1880. 32 p. O.

Added, in 1879, 665 v.; total, 9,525; issued, 16,895.

LYNN (*Mass.*) P. L. 17th an. report. Lynn, 1880. 20 p. O.

Added, 2,184 v.; total, 27,804; issued, 124,648. "The return of business has lessened in a considerable degree the call for books." A new library building is called for.

MCCRACKEN, H. M., *D. D.* Books and reading. (Pages 9-11 of *National lit. monthly*, Toledo, March.)

MARBLEHEAD (*Mass.*) ABBOT P. L. Report for year ending March 1, 1879, and year ending March 1, 1880. Marblehead, 1880. 8 p. O.

Added, in 1879, 494 v.; issued, 48,155 (Fiction and Juveniles 83.76 per cent.).

NARDUCCI, E. La questione delle biblioteche. (In *Il buonarroti*, July, 1879.)

OHIO STATE LIB. 34th an. report. Columbus, 1880. 28 p. O.

Added, 929; total, 46,932.

The PEABODY Library (In *Baltimore sun*, suppl., Apr. 4?) 1½ col.

Total about 70,000 v. 2,000 reference v. are placed in the reading-room. The system of marking the books is original. The precise position of every book is determined by the use of four figures which are placed on the cover (inside [!]), and these four figures will continue to fix the place of each book when the library shall number 300,000 v." The plan seems to be the decimal system introduced long ago by Mr. Shurtleff at the Boston P. L., with this improvement, that positive numbers are used for one side of the library, and the same figures with a minus sign prefixed are used for the corresponding shelves on the other side—an arrangement which doubles the numbering capacity of the system by the added use of, on an average, half a sign.

PORTLAND (*Me.*) P. L. An. report. (In *Portland d. advertiser*, Apr. 24.) 1½ col.

Added, 642 v.; total, 25,878; issued, 51,372; used in lib., 9,860. "We have been obliged to discourage the visits to the library of a certain class of boys, for the want of help and room to accommodate them. What shall be done with these boys? They are eager to read our books and willing to obey all rules of the library. The subscription library does not reach them, they cannot pay the subscription which enables them to take books away, and we cannot have them in our reading-room. Must they be kept in the streets when out of school, to go down where so many of them do go, or shall we reach to them a helping hand and try to make them good men and respectable citizens? They are among us and of us, and must some day be for or against us, according as they are educated now. Many of these boys cannot attend school, being obliged to work for their support in shops and mills during the day, and come to the library evenings to read."

PROVIDENCE (*R. I.*) P. L. 2d an. report. Prov., 1880. 36 p. O.

Added, 3,331 v.; total, 16,775; issued for lib. use, 10,427; for home use, 93,386 (the use of fiction increasing from 69 to 73 per cent.). "A young man who, in Oct. last, was found to be systematically appropriating volumes from the reference department, was sentenced to four years in the Reform School."

"Probably the public is not fully aware of the admirable work which is silently going forward under the direction of various organizations, such as the 'Society to Encourage Studies at Home,' the 'Women's Education Association,' the 'Chataqua Literary and Scientific Circle,' and others. The reading lists issued by these authorities have been obtained, and, with our own numbers marked on the margin, they are every day performing a useful service in our community."

"The special reference lists, reproduced by means of the lithogram, as used in connection with the college courses, are found serviceable by the very large percentage of students who have used this library from the beginning. The courses of



study in the various schools have been carefully followed; the acquaintance of teachers has been made, and their co-operation secured; special lists of books have been furnished for the schools; and a 'Series of suggestions for the use of pupils' on the right way to use the public library has been printed. ... The use of books at the library has increased nearly 60 per cent.

"The librarian would here take occasion to acknowledge the services of his assistants, and to note particularly their increasing facility in methods of conducting researches, and in rendering help to readers. It is obviously of the highest importance that the composition of the staff should be as nearly permanent as possible, since experience is of ever-increasing importance in work of this kind.

"The Providence Public Library is an example of the new system of library instruction, which is even more marked in its improvement, because newer, than the progress in the method of school instruction, and which is the real justification of its creation and attendant expense. The good which it does is not entirely a matter of statistics, but those of the report are sufficient evidence of what cannot be shown by them. Though the city long existed without it, its necessity is now established, and it should attract an interest beyond that which is given to systems for mere public convenience. It is no less than a vital force for the elevation of the community."—*Providence Journal*, Apr. 17.

THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE. (In *The builder*, Apr. 3.) 7½ col.

The writer, having to visit the office on a foggy day, found that "the only rooms of utility to the public were the only rooms without light," the reason being the danger apprehended from gas. The article contains a good history of the record office and account of the building.

RUBIO Y LLUCH, Antonio. Estudio critico-bibliografico sobre Anacreonte. Barcelona, Subirana, 1879. p. 171. 8".

Gives a list of the principal works on Anacreon.

[SMALL, Willard.] Suggestions for a course of reading, prepared for the Denver High School.

[With a preface by James H. Baker.] Colorado, 1880. 15 p. T.

SOUTHBRIDGE (Mass.) LIB. [10th] an. report. (Pages 65-74 of Reports of the town officers, Southbr., 1880. 101 + [1] p. O.)

Total v., 7,650; issued, 14,559.

TAUNTON (Mass.) P. L. 14th an. report. Taunton, 1880. 9 p. O.

Added, 867 v.; total, 16,051; issued, 63,598. The librarian notes a largely increased use of books of reference.

U. S. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS. An. report. Wash., 1880. p. 5. O.

Added, 21,367 v., 12,050 pm.; total, 374,022 v., about 12,000 pm.; copyright entries, 18,125 v.; fees, \$14,689.90. See *LIB. JOURN.*, 5: 9".

U. S. PATENT OFFICE. Official gazette suppl.: Revised classification of subjects of invention. Wash., 1880. 15 p. O.

VILLA-AMIL Y CASTRO, J. Nuestras bibliotecas, archivos, y museos. (In *Boletín histórico*, Feb.)

WINCHESTER (Mass.) TOWN LIBRARY. 20th an. report. (Pages 66-68 of annual reports of the officers of the town, Woburn, 1880, 132 p. O.)

Total v., 4,532; issued, Dec. 1879, and Jan.-Feb. 1880, 5,616.

WOBURN (Mass.) P. L. 23d an. report, March 1. Boston, 1880. 15 p. O.

Added, 935 v.; total, 17,703; issued, 50,548. "The High School Association, a body of young men and young women, has been doing an excellent work in reviewing their studies in English literature. The Library has been of great aid in making their studies successful. The bi-weekly meetings have been crowded with participants in, and listeners to, the essays and readings."

#### B. Catalogs.

BRITISH MUSEUM. Catalogue. Class 1: new English books; also, works in foreign languages printed in England. Pt. 1. London, 1880.

CINCINNATI P. L. Monthly bulletin. No. 25. n. s., March, 1880. pp. 49-80. l. O.

The collection is given and classified; the titles are so full and the type so large that only about 20 titles are given on a page.

COHASSET (Mass.) FREE P. L. Catalogue. Boston, 1880. 20 p. l. O.

Follows in the main the classification, tho it does not use the notation, of the Winchester Town Library catalog.

DEUTSCHE MORGENLÄNDISCHE GESELLSCHAFT. Katalog der Bibliothek. I. Druckchriften u. Aehnliches. Lpz., Brockhaus' Sort. in Comm., 1880. 14 + 215 p. 8". 6 m.

LACAITA, Sir James P. Catalogue of the Library at Chatsworth. London, Chiswick Press, 1879.

4 v. [1] + 20 + [1] + 453 + [1]; [2] + 478 + [1]; [2] + 453 + [1]; [2] + 348 + [1] p. Q.

"Drawn up with great skill and care. The Duke of Devonshire has privately printed 250 copies of this sumptuous catalogue on small, and 50 copies on large paper."

Prefixed is an "Historical notice of Chatsworth."

PARISH, W. D. List of Carthusians, 1800-1879, by the Rev. Chancellor W. D. Parish. Lewes, Farncombe and Co., 1879. 310 p. 8".

"A valuable accession to the department of modern English biography. Possesses special interest for the librarian, from the fact that the compiler has appended a brief printed author and subject slip which can be detached for insertion in catalogues."

J. B., in *Notes and q.*, 5th s., 12: 465, apparently utterly ignorant that such a thing had been proposed before (see *LIB. JOURN.*, 1:15; 2: 32-3,



264-5; 3: 112-15, 200, 222, 243), says: "Let every book that is a book and hopes to go down to posterity have its own catalogue slip or slips inserted on a fly leaf at the end."

WOBURN (*Mass.*) P. L. Bulletin of accessions, March 1, 1880. Woburn, n. p. 23 p. O.

"The BODLEIAN LIBRARY has issued the 3d part of the 'Catalogue of periodicals contained in the library; foreign periodicals and transactions.'"

#### C. Bibliography.

BACCHI DELLA LEGA, Alberto. Bibliografia dei vocabolarie nei dialetti italiani rac. e posseduti da Gaetano Romagnoli. 2a ed. Bologna, G. Romagnoli, 1880. 104 p. 4°. 3 lire.

BALDAMUS, E. Die Erscheinungen der deutschen Literatur 1875-79 auf dem Gebiete der Bau-, Maschinen- u. Eisenbahnkunde, d. Telegraphenwesens, der Bergbau- u. Hüttenkunde. Alphabetisch geordnet u. m. Sachregister versehen. Lpz., Hinrichs' Verl., 1880. 106 p. 8°. 1.60 m.

BALDAMUS, Ed., die Erscheinungen der deutschen Literatur auf dem Gebiete der Kriegswissenschaft u. Pferdekunde, 1875-79; mit e. Anh.: Die wichtigsten Karten u. Pläne Europa's. Systematisch u. m. alphabet. Register. Lpz., Hinrichs' Verl., 1880. 3 + 113 p. 8°. 2 m.

BARRANTES, Vicente. Aparato bibliográfico para la historia de Estremadura. Tomo 3. Madrid, Murillo, 1880. 600 p. 4°. 12 fr. 25.

BATES, W. Special bibliographies; C: Mathews the elder. (In *Notes and q.*, 5th ser., v. 12, p. 243, 282, 342.) 8 col.

DUN ECHT OBSERVATORY. Publications. Advance sheets, subject to revision. Classification scheme, and Index to the same, of the Library of the Observatory; by Lord Lindsay. Dun Echt, 1879. 28 pp. 1. 4°.

Lord Lindsay read a paper before the L. A. U. K., May 2, 1879, in which he described the classification, which embraces the department of mathematics, astronomy and physics. It is based upon Mr. Melvil Dewey's decimal system, with considerable modifications and extensions; the classing is extended to four figures of decimals. The classification, with its explanation, may be seen in the LIB. JOURNAL, 4: 149. The index is very extensive and refers to about 1,650 subject-headings.

H: R: T.

ENGEL, Carl. The literature of national music. London, Novello, Ewer & Co., 1880.

Reprinted from the *Musical times*. "Contains a large amount of information with regard to scarce treatises and collections of music, a large number of which are out of print. Some hundreds of books are mentioned, and the rarer and more important are described in some detail. A very complete index adds to the utility of the work."—*Ath.*, Mar. 13.

LEVASSEUR, E. Bibliographie; ouvrages et articles tirés à part; principaux articles pub. dans les recueils. (Pages 603-668 of his *Vie de Wolowski in Annales du Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers*, v. 10, Paris, 1877.)

PAWLOWSKI, Gustave. Les travaux bibliog. 1867-78. Paris, Soc. Bibliog., 1879. 80 p. 8°. (200 cop. printed, 50 for sale at 5 fr.)

From the "Receuil des travaux" of the Congrès Bibliog. internat., 4 juil, 1878. Two "tables" and an analytical index have been added. "Professing to give an account of contemporary periodicals, European and American, relating to bibliography, also a list of retrospective works on the subject, and those of a general and special character. Although M. Pawlowski expresses warm admiration of 'le savant docteur Julius Petzholdt, et ce précieux volume intitulé "Bibliotheca Bibliographica,"' he has not profited by the example of that most careful of bibliographers. Amongst periodicals, for instance, he makes no mention of the Dutch 'Nieuwsblad voor der boekhandel,' nor of the Russian 'Bibliographie russe et slave,' nor of the American 'Library journal.' Amongst catalogues, again, Watt is seemingly unknown; Leyboldt's and Trübner's have no place amongst American catalogues; the 'Svensk Bok-katalog,' 1866-75, is unmentioned. It would be possible to add scores of similar omissions, but the foregoing are sufficient to show the trustworthy nature of the work."

POCHE, Jean. Des quelques noms de relieurs célèbres. (In *Miscel. bibliog.*, no. 25.)

R: ANDERSON's Lightning conductors, London, 1879, "contains an excellent and singularly complete bibliography."—*Nature*, March 4, p. 416.

The CREMATION SOCIETY, in the 1st no. of its Transactions, publishes a "careful and apparently exhaustive bibliography of the subject, in various languages, which Mr. Eassie, the secretary, has compiled."—*Athenaeum*.

#### D. Indexes.

U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY. Wash. astron. observ. for 1876. Appendix 1: Subject-index to the publications of the U. S. Naval Observatory, 1845-75; by E. S. Holden. Wash., Gov. Pr. Of., 1879. 74 p. Q.

See LIB. JOURN. 3: 365 for Prof. Holden's plan for a general index of the publications of all observatories.

The DEUTSCHE CHEMISCHE GESELLSCHAFT, of Berlin, is about to publish an exhaustive index of the first ten years of its "Berichte," 1868-77.

G: W. MARSHALL, LL.D., is passing through the press an index to the printed pedigrees contained in all the family and county histories, the publications of the archaeological and other societies, and in the various heraldic and genealogical periodicals which have been published in this country. The volume is the result of the labor of several years, and will contain, it is estimated, references to more than 50,000 printed pedigrees. It is not intended to print more than 200 copies, and the price to subscribers will be 18s.—*Academy*.

## PSEUDONYMS AND ANONYMS.

EDITED BY JAS. L. WHITNEY.

## PSEUDONYMS.

*Agatha*.—"Thanksgiving and other poems" (N. Y., G. P. Putnam's sons, 1880). Bessie Lawrence.

*Alqua*.—The contributor to the press over this name is Mrs. Eliza O. Peirson. A. A. Hopkins's "Waifs and their authors," p. 57.

*R. J.*—"The gamekeeper at home," "The amateur poacher," "Wild life in a Southern country," "Hodge and his masters." These works, pub. in 1878 and 1880, are by Richard Jefferies.

*F. L. M.*—"Onward to the heights of life" (Boston, Lothrop). F. L. Morse.

*Ida Raymond*.—Mary T. Tardy, the author of "Southland writers" (Phila., 1870), has edited (Phila., 1872) "The living female writers of the South." The first work appeared over the pseudonym Ida Raymond.

*Eiggam Strebor*.—"Home scenes during the Rebellion" (N. Y., J. F. Trow and son, 1875). Maggie Roberts.

*Jeremy Gimcrack*.—"The circle of anecdote and wit" (Boston, F. S. Hill, 1831). What is the compiler's real name?

## ANONYMS.

*Anglicans of the day*.—*Harmony of Anglicanism*. T. W. M. Marshall. J. T. C.

*Behind the bars*. (Boston, Lee & S., 1871.) This book on the treatment of the insane was written by Mrs. George Lunt.

*A foreign marriage*. *A novel*.—(N. Y., Harper, 1880.) Virginia W. Johnson.

*Gracie and Grant*.—*Peeps into Poverty*.—*Little Joe*. The author of these recently published books is Mary Emma (Burton) Drewson.

*Rollo's journey to Cambridge*. *By two gentlemen of Harvard*. (Boston, A. Williams, 1880.) John Tyler Wheelwright and Frederic Jesup Stimson.

## NOTES.

FATE seems to work against the publication of some volumes. This is especially true of the long-projected "Dictionary of Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature of Great Britain." Such a work was suggested a century ago in the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, but no steps were taken in the matter until Mr. Halkett, of the Advocates' Library, undertook collecting the materials about the year 1852. At his death, the matter which he had diligently culled from a variety of sources came

into the hands of Mr. T. H. Jamieson and the Rev. John Laing, the latter being the librarian of the New College Library at Edinburgh. Mr. Jamieson was cut off at an early age, and his partner was left alone to plod on industriously at the Bodleian and other libraries without any coadjutor. Mr. Laing had with great pains collected the titles of many thousand volumes, and would soon have brought them into a state fit for printing; but for some years he had been in declining health, and now his death is announced. Has any other literary antiquary the courage to take up the task of superintending the publication of the volumes?—*Academy*.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

EDITED BY MELVIL DUL.

To save space, the question which almost invariably gives rise to the note is omitted. The editor is glad to receive and give attention to queries from any sources. Readers are requested to send in answers or corrections of unsatisfactory answers given to any queries. Suggestions based on actual experience will be especially welcome. Note the worthless as carefully as the valuable, and thus avoid waste of time and money in trying what will be surely and speedily abandoned.

CAPITALIZATION.—Unless the new school of cataloguers intend to write John Ledyard Smith, esq., ll. d., etc., I predict the time is not far distant when the names of societies, newspapers and periodicals will be capitalized as of old. Surely "New York Evening Post" is as truly a proper name as that of John L. Smith. Reforms sometimes seem to move like the immense snow-balls which we used to roll up in our boyhood days, collecting more matter than desired or intended.

G. R. HOWELL, *N. Y. State Library*.

DANGERS FROM ELECTRIC LIGHT.—The electric light is not without dangers. A red-hot morsel of carbon dropped from one of the lamps at the British Museum to a table usually occupied by readers. A few days later a similar piece of red-hot carbon fell from the center lamp to the table of the superintendent of the reading-room, on a piece of loose paper, which began to kindle into flame. This was speedily extinguished, but a single spark might damage some unique manuscript or other priceless example of literary production. Large transparent glass or talc saucers have been suspended below each lamp, so as to intercept any stray piece of carbon which may happen to fall in the future. It is proposed to light the room from the outside, in which case the glass of the central part of the dome would offer effectual protection.

LIBRARY ENDOWMENTS.—We notice, in many of our larger towns and cities, a lively contest around the public support of the free libraries.

Most of these were established in the small way that satisfied the people at the time. But now, under the prodigious stimulation of the reading habit and the new outbreak of literary and language teaching in all the schools, the library has become a serious item in town and city expenditure. The practical way to meet the emergency is by the generous private endowment from wealthy citizens who believe that wealth is a providential trust for the public good. Mr. Hunnewell, of Wellesley, Mass., proposes to establish a free library for the town of Needham. The "Quincy System" is also about to put out another wing in the shape of a splendid library building, designed by Richardson, and given to the people by an eminent gentleman of wealth in New York, an old citizen of the town. A tenth part of the energy wasted in wrangling over the subject of the free higher education would fill the country with superior schools and libraries, through the munificence of large-minded men and women joining hands with the people in behalf of the children and youth.—*Journal of Education*.

**OPEN SHELVES.**—We find our open shelves a success. You remember that the *JOURNAL* criticised our too free exposure of books. We have lost none from the shelves, and Scott's novels have not been so much read in years as since a new and attractive edition has been placed there.

C. M. HEWINS, *Hartford Library*.

**UNIFORM LIBRARY STATISTICS.**—In regard to the inquiry of Mr. Foster, v. 5, p. 107,—shall pamphlets and magazines be included in the statement of the circulation?—I submit that there is no good reason why these publications should not count as books in a statement of the *use* of the library. When these items are included, a note should be appended to the foot of the table of circulation explaining it. In giving the annual accessions, it is the rule in many libraries to include only the *bound* volumes and periodicals and to disregard the pamphlets received until they are put into permanent bindings by themselves or with others of a collateral nature. It is in accordance with this method that the table of accessions was prepared. In libraries where unbound pamphlets and periodicals are loaned, there will be, accordingly, an interval when certain publications will be loaned that are not on record in the Accessions Book, and that are without a final shelf-location. The statistical tables adopted by the Association were not expected to meet all the requirements of the larger libraries, but may be made to answer the needs of a large majority with very slight, if any, changes. Such departure from the regular form should be explained in foot-notes.

F. JACKSON.

## GENERAL NOTES.

### UNITED STATES.

**CONGRESSIONAL LIB.**—Senator Voorhees called up, May 5, the bill which has been lying upon the Senate table for a long time, providing for a commission to decide upon some plan for securing more room for the Congressional Library. He made a speech upon it, setting forth the necessities of the Library so strongly that it was agreed to consider the measure immediately after the District Appropriation bill was disposed of. He stated that the greatest danger is from fire, the upper tier of the present library being filled with combustible matter and peculiarly exposed to destruction by fire. Senator Bayard introduced a joint resolution to appropriate \$2,500 to pay the expenses of the librarian "in a visit to the libraries of Europe during the ensuing vacation of Congress," in order that he may "make arrangements for the more complete interchange of the publications by the government of the United States and those of foreign nations," and "inspect the systems and methods under which public libraries in Europe are conducted and maintained."

**N. Y. GEOGRAPHICAL LIB.**—A certificate of incorporation has been filed by the "Geographical Library Society of the City of New York." The object of the organization, as set forth in the certificate, is the "maintenance of a free public library, to consist of geographical works, voyages and travels; maps, charts, globes, instruments, documents, manuscripts, prints, engravings, or whatever else may be useful or necessary for supplying full, accurate and reliable information in respect to every part of the globe and its inhabitants." There are to be nine trustees. Those named for the first year are Robert Lenox Kennedy, Royal Phelps, William Remsen, George W. Cullum, W. H. H. Moore, Chief Justice Charles P. Daly, T. Bailey Myers, Francis A. Stout and Harlow M. Hoyt.

**N. Y. MERC. LIB. ASSOC.**—A circular to members, sent out previous to the annual meeting, alleged that the choice of trustees was controlled by a ring. At the meeting, May 11, an amendment to the constitution was offered, providing for the election *by ballot* of twelve directors each year. It was claimed that the falling off in membership and usefulness under the present system might be remedied by returning to the old plan, where every active member had the right to vote for directors, which encouraged young men to join. It was replied that under this system votes were bought, that "free rum" controlled the election, and that "repeating" was frequent. Another

member said that "The old elections were a perfect disgrace. There were many reasons why the Association had not flourished of late years. There were many more attractions in the city now; there were more circulating libraries; many associations attracted young men to their halls; the game of billiards was played more now than it was years ago, and the library was not far enough up town." The amendments were lost. The president, W. D. Searls, reported that the free scholarship in Columbia College had been taken away; that the Clinton Hall Association had purchased the property at Thirty-seventh street and Broadway for \$180,000 for a new library. The library contains 188,167 v.; expenditure for the year, \$26,141.40, of which \$11,353.42 was for books; number entitled to use the library, 8,922.

ST. LOUIS PUB. SCHOOL LIB.—The attack upon Mr. Crunden culminated at the election of seven directors, May 4, by the running of an opposition or Soldan ticket. Several of those named on this ticket declared in cards or stated afterwards that their names were used without consent. Each life-member of the library was entitled to a vote. There are 3,500 on the list, but, according to the *St. Louis Times*, not more than half that number are living and at present residents of the city. 570 votes were cast—twice as many as last year; over 300 of these were ladies. There was a lady nominated on each ticket. The regular or Crunden ticket, naming present incumbents, was elected by an average vote of 460, to 110 on the other side. The library is thus assured of Mr. Crunden for another year.

CLEVELAND (O.) LIB. ASSOC.—The Association has applied to the courts for a change of name to the "Case Library," in honor of the late Leonard Case, who gave the building. The rooms have just been re-opened, after improvements which have required several weeks' closing. The library proper formerly consisted of but one apartment, 25x73 feet in size, divided only by book-cases; it has now been enlarged to double the original size by extending its southern limit 25 ft., creating a shelving capacity of 20,000 v. New cases have been constructed with a ledge at their base, by which members can reach the topmost shelf, obviating the need of ladders. A number of the revolving reading-stands, invented by the secretary, Mr. Albert P. Massey, for the especial purpose of handling the large books of engravings and atlases, are a valuable improvement. The reading-room on the third floor has also been entirely refitted. The membership has increased several hundred during the past year. 2,500 v.

have been added, and during the present year double that number will be placed on the shelves. The membership fee of \$1 is not assessed for the purpose of revenue, but simply as a guarantee of good faith between the Association and public.

THE SEYMOUR PUBLIC LIB. ASSOC., Auburn, N. Y., reports for the year: Added, 674 v., 16 pm.; total, 7,284 v.; borrowers, 556; circulation, 9,864; fiction, 65.3. Miss M. A. Bullard, the librarian, took account of stock for the first time since the library opened, October 1, 1878, 19 months, and found it had not lost a book, of which fact she certainly has reason to feel proud.

GLOVERSVILLE (N. Y.) FREE LIB.—Levi Parsons, a lawyer of New York city, a former resident of Kingsboro, Fulton county, N. Y., has given \$50,000 to establish a public library for Gloversville and Kingsboro. The citizens have held a meeting, and voted to name it the "Parsons Library," and have promptly subscribed nearly \$5,000 for a building lot. The gift is to be paid in ten annual installments of \$5,000 each; the first of these has already been sent. The money is to be placed at the disposal of a board of trustees. No restrictions have been placed on them as to the details of the disposal of the money, and part of it may be used in purchasing a small art gallery.

LEWISTON (Me.).—The Manufacturers' and Mechanics' Lib. Assoc. reports 7,218 v.; accessions, 536 v.; circulation, 20,411 v., of which 10,596, or about one-half, were fiction, 4,783 juvenile, 2,000 history, biography and travels, 404 scientific and mechanical, and 365 theological and philosophical. To the credit of Miss Little, the librarian, only two books were lost. There has been a slow but gradual increase in the reading of books of permanent value, although, as usual, fiction still takes the lead. Care is taken to exclude fiction of questionable character. The Franklin, Bates, Hill, Androscoggin, Bleachery, Lewiston and Continental manufacturing corporations each makes an annual donation of \$150.

LONG BRANCH (N. J.) LIB.—The new library was dedicated May 6. The dedicatory services were performed by the Rev. E. D. Thompsons, of St. James's Protestant Episcopal Church. Dr. Hunt, of Eatontown, delivered the oration, Mr. Hastings following in a speech. Mrs. Hastings and her lady associates in the enterprise were presented with a set of complimentary resolutions, finely engrossed.

BILLERICA (Mass.) has declined Mrs. Joshua Bennett's offer of \$5,000 for a town library building, provided the town should give the same amount.



THE THOMASTON (Cl.) Library Association, incorporated by the last Legislature, and which has a fund of \$1,500, given by Seth E. Thomas, of New-York, has chosen him as president.

THE letters bearing on the anti-slavery struggle, given by Mr. W. P. Garrison to the library of Cornell Univ., were the correspondence, not of his father, the late Wm. Lloyd Garrison, but of his father-in-law, the late J. Miller McKim.

A BILL is pending in the Massachusetts Legislature to allow the Boston Public Library building to occupy a portion of the State land on the "Back Bay." It includes a condition that the people of Massachusetts shall have the privileges in the Library that the citizens of Boston now have.

THE New York Free Circulating Library, having opened rooms at No. 36 Bond street, solicits contributions of money (payable to the treasurer, Mr. Levi P. Morton, 25 Nassau street), books and periodicals. An annual fee of five dollars secures membership in the Association.

THE Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, proposes to introduce the electric light. The substitution has already been made in the San Francisco Public Library. The gas used to be shut off at 9.30, but the electric lights are allowed to burn until midnight, while a reduction is reported in the monthly expenses from \$256 to \$90.

REV. HENRY RANDALL WAITE, Pelham Manor, Westchester Co., New York, has been appointed by Gen. Walker special agent of the Census Bureau on educational and religious statistics. This division includes the library work, which it is proposed to make exhaustive. The Association and leading librarians will be consulted in planning the work.

#### GREAT BRITAIN.

SWANSEA P. L.—Mr. S. E. Thompson, who, since July, 1871, has held the position of sub-librarian at the Leeds Public Library, has been appointed chief librarian of the Public Library at Swansea, at a salary, to commence with, of £175 per annum. During his connection with the Leeds Library, says the *Leeds intelligencer*, Mr. Thompson, by his accurate knowledge of its contents, his energy and urbanity, has won the good opinion of all with whom he has been brought into contact, and the Library Committee will not easily replace him. Prior to his appointment in Leeds, Mr. Thompson was one of the officials of the Liverpool Reference Library for over seven years.

MR. INGRAM BYWATER, Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, has resigned his office of sub-librarian to the Bodleian Library.

LAST year's additions to the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, amounted to a total of 13,873 articles, a decrease of 460 as compared with 1878.

IN a recent Convocation at Oxford, a grant was made to the Nottingham Free Library of books printed at the University Press, to the value of £100.

THE report of the Plymouth Free Library, 1879 (Mr. W. H. K. Wright, lib.), contains an interesting table of the ages of borrowers (not being burgesses), whereby it appears that there were enrolled in 1879 no less than 429 under the age of 15, and only 63 of 60 years and upwards.

THE *Building news* for April 23 contains the successful design of James Seward and Thomas, architects, for the new library building at Cardiff; also elevation and details of the old library at Noyon; and the *Architect* for April 24 gives the Cardiff design submitted in the competition by Chas. Taylor, architect.

THE report of the Wednesbury Free Library, 1879 (Mr. A. Cotgreave, lib.), states that the revival of trade has had the effect of decreasing the issues of books. "The decrease is principally in works of fiction, borrowed from the lending department, the issue of higher class literature from the reference department having, on the contrary, been nearly double that of last year."

SCHOOL LIBRARIES.—From recently printed returns it appears that the school libraries in France have, during the last ten years, increased in a remarkable manner. They have now become really people's libraries supported by the state, which contributes 24,000 francs a year for the purchase of books, and by the municipalities. In 1866 there were 4,835 of these libraries; but by 1877 the number had increased to 17,764. During the same period the number of books rose from 180,853 to 1,716,900.

#### ITALY.

ROYAL LIBRARIES.—In the 32 royal libraries of Italy in 1878 the readers of single works were 778,688 (186,068 of them in the evening); the readers of more than one work, 13,138; the books read, 1,024,802; the volumes acquired, 30,054. In every case these figures are lower than in 1877.



# CRITICAL ESSAYS.

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